A

Third LETTER

TO

Dr. *MEAD*,

CONCERNING

A New EDITION.

OF

Thuanus's *History*.

LONDON:
Printed by *S. Buckley* in *Amen-Corner*,
1730.

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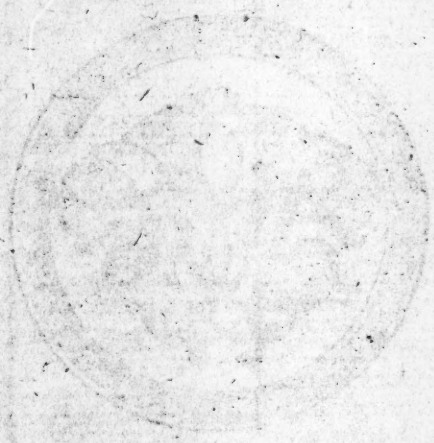

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To Dr. *Mead*,

SIR, 30 *June* 1730.

HAVING now, after using all the Expedition that so large a Work would admit of, put all the Volumes of *Thuanus*'s History to the Press, I address my self publickly to you once more; from this Motive principally, That as the Quality and the Number of my Subscribers (which you will see by the List hereto annexed,) is a Proof of the Trust placed in my Application and Probity to perform what I have undertaken, so I can with Truth assure them, that by means of certain Acquisitions made since my Proposals were published, some of which I shall here describe, our Edition will be improved much beyond what I could then give them any Expectation of.

Rigaltius's Continuation of the History from 1607 where *Thuanus* ends, to the Death of *Henry* IV in 1610, deserves to be mentioned in the first Place. It is divided into three Books: The first of them was printed in a thin Folio, but without the Author's Name, and with this Title only at the Top of the first Page, *De Rebus Galliæ a Fine Jac. Aug. Thuani Liber Primus*, and was never published, but suppressed; one Copy of it however was preserved, and is now in the King's Library at *Paris*, where very probably it was deposited by *Rigaltius* himself, who was many Years Keeper (*Garde*) of that Library; And another Copy having been put into the Library *Thuanus* left behind him, came with the Manuscripts of that Library (when it was sold in 1679) into the Hands of the great Monsr. *Colbert*, and was in the Catalogue of the Books of the *Bibliotheca Colbertina* that were sold by Auction about Two Years ago. But the two last Books of *Rigaltius*'s Continuation remained in Manuscript, and have never yet been printed. This Piece will no doubt be generally deemed a very valuable Acquisition: Because no one who is apprised that *Thuanus* designed to carry on his History to the Death of *Henry* IV; and who has read his Will by which, besides the *parata Editio* of his History, he left *Lucubrationes item omneis*

alias ſuas to the Diſcretion of *Rigaltius* and *Puteanus*; and who further conſiders thoſe two Perſons as conſtant and domeſtick Companions of *Thuanus*; but muſt be deſirous to ſee *Rigaltius*'s Continuation of his Friend's Hiſtory to that Period of Time to which he himſelf deſigned to extend it; whether we ſuppoſe this Continuation to have been formed from that Friend's Sketches and Memoirs left among his Papers, or upon the Sentiments to which *Rigaltius* had been habituated by continual Converſation with him.

In my Second Letter to you, Sir, I gave Extracts of ſeveral Letters that paſſed between *Thuanus* and *Camden*, and I regretted that I wanted a Letter of *Camden*'s dated in *Nov.* 1607. It is with much Satisfaction I acquaint you, that I am now poſſeſſed of that Letter, as alſo of three other Letters of *Camden* to *Thuanus*, which I had not before; among them is that dated in *June* 1615, an Extract of which I could only give you then from an imperfect Draught. For this Acquiſition I am obliged to Mr. *Titley* reſiding at the Court of *Copenhagen*; who being informed that M. *Gram*, Profeſſor of the *Greek* Tongue in the Univerſity there, had among his Manuſcripts that he had ſaved from the late Fire in *Copenhagen*, in which Part of his Library was burnt, a Collection of Letters, written by K. *Henry* IV. by *Dan. Heinſius*, *Mich. Lingelſhemius*, *Ub. Emmius*, *Jo. Meurſius*, the Cardinal *de Joyeuſe*, and others, to M. *de Thou*, and particularly that from *Camden*, which he ſaw by my Letter to you I wanted; was pleaſed to apply to him for Copies of all Letters of *Camden*, and a Liſt of the reſt. The Profeſſor whom he found to be a very learned good-natured Man, conſented to it with the utmoſt Readineſs; and beſides the Letters of *Camden* at large, furniſhed not a bare Liſt only of the others, but the Date, Beginning, Ending and Argument of each Letter. Theſe Mr. *Titley* ſent over to me, with a Letter to him from M. *Gram*, offering a Copy of that intire Collection, and of another Collection of Letters of *Thuanus* to *Lingelſheim*, if I ſhould want and deſire them. I was ſurprized with the Profeſſor's frank Proceeding, and immediately wrote to Mr. *Titley* to engage him to favour me with thoſe *MSS.* without loſing Time to copy them. This was obtained, and the Profeſſor has further obliged me with other Pieces, and ſome Obſervations of his own; by which he appears to be a Perſon of great Reading, laborious, and extremely judicious, as well as very obliging and communicative.

The abovementioned Materials tranſmitted to me from different and remote Places, are the more acceptable and valuable, becauſe it is certain they cannot by any Diligence be procured in *France*.

In my Specimen, the Contents of the Hiſtory, taken from the Epitomes prefixed by the Author to each Book, are put in the Margin.

But

But Dr. *George Clarke* of *Oxford* adviſed me to another Method, which is, to mark by numeral Letters the chief Contents in every Epitome, and to put like Numerals at the Beginning of every Diviſion or Paragraph in the ſubſequent Book anſwering to thoſe Contents; ſo that whatever the Reader finds in the Epitomes, he may by thoſe Numbers readily turn to in the Hiſtory. Many Books have been printed in this Method; which is not only perfectly commodious and uſeful in itſelf, but the Margin is thereby kept clear and ſpacious, which renders the Page the more graceful. This Alteration I propoſed to my Lord *Carteret*, and to you, as well as to other good Judges, who all approved it. But beſides, in preparing the Copy for the Preſs, it ſoon appeared that the other Method of copying the Contents from the Epitomes and putting them in the Margin, was not practicable without defacing the Beauty of the Page: For, in ſome Inſtances, thoſe Contents would take up more Lines in the Margin, than the very Matter related in the Text; in which Caſe Part of the marginal Contents of one Paragraph, would be thruſt down the Side of a ſubſequent Paragraph on a different Subject; in other Inſtances the Author expatiates ſo much in ſome of the Contents, that even the Editor of the laſt *Francfort* Edition (who introduced the tranſplanting of thoſe Contents from the Epitomes into the Margin) finding them too long, is forced to retrench Part of them; and ſometimes the Author enlarges the Contents, by juſtifying in them certain Facts related in the Body of the Hiſtory, which Juſtifications cannot with any Propriety be uſed as marginal Contents. Upon theſe Accounts the Method we have taken is preferable to the other; for, by Means of the Figures or Numbers in every Epitome and Paragraph of a Book mutually anſwering to each other, all that the Author choſe to give as the Contents of his Work, may be preſently found by inſpecting the Epitomes: Which the Reader would do well to peruſe firſt, all the Way he goes, before he enters upon the Book to which they are reſpectively prefixed; becauſe there are ſometimes Things in them, which either ſupply or explain Matters related in the Body of the Hiſtory; for Inſtance, in the Epitome of the Firſt Book, where Mention is made of the Interview between *Lewis* King of *France* and *Ferdinand* of *Spain* at *Savona*, at which *Gonſalvo* of *Corduba*, called the Great Captain, was preſent, this Fact is told, *Cordubenſis à Ludovico rara humanitate menſæ adhibitus, Ferdinandi manifeſto livore, qui Cordubenſi malam gratiam rependit*; of which Fact not a Syllable is to be found in the Body or Text of the Hiſtory. So likewiſe in the 53d Book an Account is given of a Letter written by *Monluc* Biſhop of *Valence*, in Defence, or Extenuation at leaſt of the

the Maſſacre of *Paris*. A ſharp Anſwer to this Letter was written, ſays *Thuanus*, *a Gallo quodam in Germania profugo Zachariæ Furneſteri nomine*, to which the famous *Cujacius* replied. The *quidam Gallus* is not named in the Body or Text of the Hiſtory; but in the Epitome we are told *Hugo Donellus* was the Perſon who wrote *ſub Furneſteri nomine*.

Upon this Subject of the Epitomes or Contents of the Books of *Thuanus*'s Hiſtory, I believe it will not be diſagreeable to you that I ſhould acquaint you upon what Occaſion and for what Uſe it was that thoſe Epitomes were drawn up. To do this, I muſt likewiſe enter into a Diſquiſition concerning the Time when the *Commentarii de Vita ſua* were written, and what was the Deſign of writing them.

The Six Books of thoſe *Commentarii* or Memoirs were firſt publiſhed in 1620. They begin in the printed Edition without any Prelude, *Natus eſt Jac. Aug. Thuanus*, &c.; and it is not till towards the End of the fifth Book, that we are directly told they were written to defend the Author againſt *tot Obtrectatores qui non contenti humanos lapſus notare, qui non poſſunt in tam magno opere non obrepſiſſe, omnem exagitandi auctoris occaſionem per calumnias & cavillationes arripiunt, et a ſcriptis ad* mores vitamque domeſticam, *ne quid intentatum relinquant, rabie abrepti deſcendunt*. Then the Motives of this Rage againſt him are enumerated, and particularly it is ſaid his Dedication of his firſt Vol. to *Hen.* 4. had ſo incenſed thoſe *Obtrectatores*, that *neque poſt Decennium ceſſant*. As that Dedication came out in 1604, the *poſt Decennium* implies that this Life was written after 1614; and conformably to this it is expreſly ſaid in a Prefatory Introduction to the MS. Copy of this Life, which is in the Royal Library at *Paris*, that the writing of it was chiefly occaſioned by a Book intitled, *In Jac. Aug. Thuani Hiſtoriarum Libros Notationes, Auctore Jo. Bapt. Gallo*; which was printed at *Ingolſtadt* in 1614. The ſame MS. takes Occaſion likewiſe to note, that the Time of writing this Life was 51 Years after the Concluſion of the Council of *Trent*. As an End was put to that Council in 1563, 51 Years being added make 1614.

Theſe are clear Intimations by the Compiler of this Life, that he would have it underſtood to have been written in or ſoon after the Year 1614.

Now as to the Epitomes, we have Proof that they were firſt drawn up with a Deſign to be annexed to the Life. For, at the End of the fifth Book of the ſaid printed Life, this Addition is made in the MS. kept in the King's Library at Paris, *Sequuntur argumenta Librorum* 80 *qui jam editi ſunt* ..... ; *et inſuper* 46, *ante Decennium abſolutorum qui adhuc premuntur*. There is alſo in the ſame Library the MS. of the Epitomes of

Thu-

Thuanus's first 126 Books, which Dr. *Jebb* of *Stratford* very friendly copied for me at *Paris*. In which MS. after the Epitome of the 80th Book, come these Words, *Et hactenus editi sunt Libri, quorum Breviaria huic inseruntur. Qui supersunt numero 46 adhuc premuntur, eoque fusius illorum Breviaria* describentur, *ut habeant Lectores unde desiderium, quousque illi edantur, explere possint.*

I must just put you in mind, Sir, that no more than the first 80 Books had been published in 1614, and that the rest were not published till after *Thuanus*'s Death.

Now, let me further observe to you, that as the Occasion, Design, and Use intended to be made of the *Vita Thuani* and of the Epitomes, are obvious from those Passages in them which I have been laying before you; so it is certain *Thuanus* himself actually began to execute this Scheme, with this Alteration, that instead of leaving the *Breviaria* of the first 80 Books to be inserted together in the *Comment. de Vita sua*, he put them severally at the Head of each Book. This appears by the very Title of the first Volume that was printing by *Rob. Stephens* at the Time our Author died; which Title promises no more than the first 80 Books of the History. But the Preface to that Volume proves it more strongly, for it concludes thus, *Habebis in præsens tantum* 80 *Libros*, reliquos εἰ ποτε τ' ἀλλοθι πυκρὸν οὐκ εἴη. *interim tamen et* earum epitomas *repræsentari tibi voluit, ut sic* totius operis *seriem perfectique corporis saltem lineamenta conspiceres.* You see, Sir, that tho' this Preface takes such strong Notice of these *Breviaria*, yet not one Word is said in it of the *Commentarii de Vita Thuani*: From which Silence I believe you will draw this Conclusion, that our Author could not prevail with himself to let those *Commentarii* be published in his Life-Time; tho' they were written in 1615, and this Preface is dated in 1617. You also see plainly, that had he lived longer, he would have proceeded on this Plan; *viz.* after having given the first 80 Books with their *Breviaria* as we now have them, he would have published the more ample *Breviaria* of the remaining Books: For as to the remaining Books themselves, namely those from the 80th to the 126th Book, he not only appears to have doubted of ever *seeing* himself such good Times *in France* as would bear the Publication of them intire; but we know his Friends *Puteanus* and *Rigaltius* judged *after* his Death, that the Times *then* made it unsafe for *them* to publish them *avowedly* even *out* of *France*.

He being dead, they resolved to lay aside that Plan, and to print, under the Name of M. *Lingelsheim* as the Editor, the whole History at large: Accordingly, to the first 80 Books, with their *Breviaria*, as settled in his *parata Editio* by *Thuanus*, which they sent to *Gene-*

va.

va in 1620, they added the Continuation, that is to ſay all the remaining 46 Books intire; the *Breviaria* fuſius *deſcripta* of thoſe remaining Books being *contracted* into a *proper Size* to be prefixed to each Book: They alſo added 12 more Books (which were all that *Thuanus* had left finiſhed) to the firſt 126: The *Commentarii de Vita ſua* were likewiſe put to this Edition: And thus the whole Work, as he left it behind him, being executed, there was no Occaſion in that *Life* ſo printed with the whole Hiſtory, to make any mention at all either of the ſhorter or ampler *Breviaria*, and accordingly no mention is made of them in it. But as I have a kind of ſuperſtitious Veneration for any Relicks of *Thuanus*, thoſe ampler *Breviaria*, as far as they go, (*viz.* from the 80th to the 126th Book) ſhall be found intire in our Edition. And in this I have a View, which was ſuggeſted to me by my Lord *Ilay*; *viz.* to give firſt the *Breviaria*, as we have them printed, of the firſt 80 Books; then the ampler *Breviaria* to the 126th Book incluſive, as they are in the MS.; and then the *Breviaria* of the laſt 12 Books, as we have them printed. Over each ſeveral *Breviarium*, we ſhall put the Year or Years that Book of the Hiſtory falls under: And thus the whole Contents of the Hiſtory being ranged in a continued Series, in Order of Time, one may find, with the Dates or Years, the Subject of each Book, and preſently turn to it in the Hiſtory. Of this Method, his Lordſhip ſhewed me Examples in other Books of Hiſtory.

Having done with the Epitomes, I return to ſpeak more largely of the *Vita Thuani*.

The firſt five Books of that Life, which reach to the Year 1593, ſeem by the ſtrong Vindication of *Thuanus's* Character and Writings at the End of the fifth Book, by the Poem there inſcribed *Poſteritati* which ſtates and anſwers all the Exceptions taken to his Hiſtory by the Court of *Rome* or the Leaguers, and by the Direction in the MS to add the *Breviaria* of the Hiſtory to that Book, to have been all that was firſt intended to be written. It was however carried on in a 6th Book to the Year 1601; but then, upon Mention made of the Death of *Thuanus's* firſt Wife, Occaſion is taken to ſtop. This is not apparent from the printed Life, which only concludes thus, *Sequentem annum* (1601) *Thuanus funeſtum expertus eſt, qui poſt longum ac moleſtum morbum dilectiſſimam uxorem extulit* ——— : But the MS. in the King's Library goes on thus, *Mortuæ inſigni monumento parentavit, in eoque luctu finem ſcribendi fecit, (ubi et nos finem de ipſo* [Thuano] *ſcribendi faciemus,) ulterius perrecturus, ſi per temporum iniquitatem, quod vix illi et bonis omnibus ſperare licet, hiſtoriam perſequi et ad exceſſum uſque Henrici Magni, ſicuti ab amicis exoratus, apud ſe poſtea conſtituerat, perducere Dei benignitate concedatur.*

They

They would be deceived who ſhould take theſe Words *in eoque luctu finem ſcribendi fecit*, to mean that the Grief into which this Wife's Death caſt him, made *Thuanus* leave off writing his Hiſtory. No, the real Meaning is, that as he broke off the writing of his Hiſtory when he had brought it down to the Year 1601, ſo the Compiler of his Life choſe to ſtop at the ſame Period: In which Year it is true his Wife happened to die, but it was ſome Years after her Death before he had wrote ſo much of his Hiſtory as brought it down to 1601, where he firſt ſtopt. This will appear by what I am going to lay before you.

We have in his Hiſtory plain Intimations of one Period of Time at which he broke off, and of another when he reſumed writing it.

He broke off writing his Hiſtory at the 126th Book, when he had brought it to 1601, the Time of the Birth of *Lewis* XIII. The Concluſion of that Book is in theſe Words, *Atque heic libro atque adeo operi, quod inter bellicos ſtrepitus, urbana & palatina officia, peregrinationes, aliaſque occupationes, aſpirante Deo trino & uno, intra XII annorum & VI menſium ſpatium, huc uſque perduximus, finis feliciter imponatur.* Now the Queſtion is, in what Year was it that he finiſhed his 126th Book? The Solution of this Queſtion we have from himſelf in the Beginning of the 127th Book, where he tells us, that, having brought his Hiſtory to the Year 1601, he laid down his Pen for *above ſix* Years, and did not take it up again till *after* the Death of *Hen.* 4. nor even till *after* his Diſappointment of the firſt Preſidentſhip of the Parliament of *Paris* in 1611. Conſequently it was not before the Year 1605 (four Years after the Death of his firſt Wife) that he concluded his 126th Book.

His 127th Book, (with which he reſumed his Hiſtory) opens with ſo noble and pathetick an *Exordium*, that I cannot forbear inſerting here the greateſt Part of it.

" In deſideratiſſimi Principis, qui nunc jucundo Ludovici
" nomine feliciter imperat, auſpicato natali, cum ante ſexen-
" nium ſcribendi finem feciſſem, non putabam fore, ut ulla
" ratione adductus finito potius quam intermiſſo operi manum
" denuo admoverem; ſatis quippe publicæ expectationi, ſatis ad
" famam factum exiſtimabam, hiſtoria per bella pluſquam ci-
" vilia ad pacem toto orbe Chriſtiano Henrici Magni virtute ac
" beneficio partam deducta. Nam ab eo tempore nihil fere
" memorabile apud nos geſtum: tantum quædam domeſ-
" tica, ac majorem partem triſtia, occurrunt, nequaquam
" cum ſuperioris ævi rebus comparanda. multa etiam conan-
" tem deterrebant, recenti adhuc ſenſu indigne gratiæ mihi pro
" tot evigilatis in publicam utilitatem ad nominis Gallici gloriam
" laboribus repenſæ, quæ in præterita & inſtantia reſpicientem

 " melius

" melius de futuro ominari non ſinebant. —— Vix enim dici po-
" teſt, quantum vitæ præteritæ innocentia, ac præcipuum veritatis
" ſtudium mihi inter noſtros odium conciliaverit, quam graveis
" inimicitias ingenua mea libertas, & alienus ab omni ſuco &
" factione animus excitaverit, ut quicquid deinceps facturus
" dicturuſq; ſim, ſi remiſſius, ad metum, ſi generoſius, ad ul-
" tionem ſint ii relaturi qui majorem partem hodie efficiunt,
" & de aliorum fama & exiſtimatione ex ſuo ſenſu, non recta
" ratione plerunque judicium ferunt. hæc & alia, quæ delibe-
" ranti in mentem veniebant, ejuſmodi erant, ut conſtantiſſi-
" mum quemque ab omni præclaro conſilio deterrere potue-
" rint. me vero adſiduis fortunæ adverſantis ictibus fractum
" iſthuc ætatis admonere, ut quieti conſulerem, nec in invi-
" dioſo opere induſtriam meam diutius fatigarem. ſed facile
" fuit hominem patriæ caritatis amore captum, quiq; recta con-
" ſilia et honeſta emolumentis omnibus & commodis ſemper
" antepoſuit, in re præſertim, in qua publica utilitas cum pri-
" vatis rationibus certat, à ſententia dimovere. nam cum a-
" mici non in Gallia ſolum, ubi plerique mihi metuentes po-
" tius quieſcendum ſuadebant, ſed externi à periculo remotiores
" ex Hiſpania, Italia, Germania, Britannia, Belgio, Pannonia,
" atque adeo ultima Livonia per literas cottidie ad rem perſe-
" quendam hortarentur, nihilq; reliqui facerent, quo me jacen-
" tem erigerent, & alacritatem priſtinam, quam ſeculi ingra-
" titudinem pertæſus amiſeram, propoſita publica utilitate in
" me renovarent, eorum tam enixum ſtudium in eam, quam
" ipſi volebant partem, interpretatus, mihi tandem perſuaderi
" ſum paſſus, ut ſi otium nactus eſſem, eorum deſiderio ſimul,
" & publicæ utilitati aliquando ſatisfacerem. Sed ſive ad triſ-
" tem rerum faciem hebeſcente, ſive deſuetudine ſcribendi pi-
" greſcente animo, ſive denique ob recentem moleſtiarum ex-
" antlatarum memoriam reſtitante, rem de die in diem prote-
" labam, cum caſus intervenit prodigio propior, non ſolum
" Gallis ſed cunctis orbis nationibus lamentabilis, interitus Hen-
" rici magni, qui magnum momentum ad omnem dubietatem
" tollendam attulit. enimvero cum principem his deploratiſ-
" ſimis temporibus quaſi cælo delapſum poſt tot egregie facta
" omnes ſibi boni ſuperſtitem cuperent, mali etiam in ejus
" longiore vita præſidium ſibi repoſitum putarent, fieri non
" potuit, quin tam indigna ejus morte varie animi ſint affecti; —
" Ego certe, qui præcipuo pietatis ſenſu tangerer, minime
" mihi ſatisfactum putabam, niſi principis de orbe Chriſtiano
" tam bene meriti manibus ſingulari ac peculiari officio
" parentarem, itaq; eadem facilitate, qua tantæ molis opus
" ab initio ſum aggreſſus, nunc quoque me vinci paſſus
" ſum, ut, præteritorum memoriam ſempiterna oblivione
" eruerem, & obfirmato contra calumnias & obtrectationes a-

" nimo,

" nimo, intus conſcientia tutus, de cetero ſecurus, fidem amicis
" datam liberarem. & quando Deus Opt. Max. me tanto
" principi præter ſpem & contra votum ſupereſſe voluit, quale-
" cunq; otium in hoc aulico comitatu nactus, decrevi reliqua
" vitæ ejus, hoc eſt decennii quod ſequitur res geſtas ſcriptis
" commendare.

I proceed to what I have further to ſay concerning the *Vita Thuani*.

It was written with a View to his Hiſtory, and therefore ſupplies ſome Paſſages of it with more Particulars; illuſtrates or explains others; and ſometimes by naming his Vouchers, removes all Doubt of the Truth of certain extraordinary Tranſactions which he had related. For theſe Purpoſes Recourſe was had to a Journal which he began when he was upon his Travels in 1572, the 19th Year of his Age, not without an Impulſe or Forethought even then of uſing what he noted down in it, one Time or other, in ſome Hiſtorical Compoſition; and ſeveral Paſſages or Remarks in that Journal which he had not thought proper to interweave into the Body of his Hiſtory, might with great Propriety, be inſerted, and were ſo, in the Memoirs of his Life. Let me give you but one Inſtance of this, from the third Book of theſe Memoirs, where he relates a moſt remarkable Converſation he had at *Blois*, in 1588, with the celebrated *Michel de Montagne*, Qui *artum cum Thuano exercebat amicitiæ officium, & ipſum in dies urgebat, ut de Veneta legatione, cui deſtinabatur, ſerio cogitaret: ipſe Venetias cogitabat, & toto tempore quo Thuanus in ea urbe eſſet, ab ejus conſuetudine non receſſurum ſe oſtendebat. Cum vero de cauſſis motuum* [in Gallia] *diſſereret, ſic aiebat, (nam ſe aliquando inter Navarrum Guiſiumque, cum ſimul in aula eſſent, medium interpoſuerat,) Guiſium amicitiam Navarri omni officio & ſedulitate ambiviſſe; ab eo quem amicum, quem placatum habere expetiverat, deluſum & diſſimulatione excluſum, cum ſe hoſtem eumque infenſiſſimum habere ſentiret, ad extremum armorum remedium, ut ſe decuſque familiæ tueretur, confugere neceſſe habuiſſe. Hæc alienati animi inter eos initia in hoc belli incendium poſtremo exarſiſſe, cujus non alium exitum videat, quam alterutrius exitium, cum & Guiſius incolumi Navarro de vita propria & ſuorum ſalute deſperet, nec Navarrus ſuperſtite Guiſio jus ſuum tueri ſe poſſe in regni ſucceſſione confidat. Religionem, quæ utrique obtendatur, ab iis, qui illos ſequuntur, ſpecioſe prætexi; cæterum neutrum ipſorum reſpicere. Nam & Navarrum niſi à ſuis deſeri metueret, ultro ad ſacra majorum paratum redire; & Guiſium, ſi periculum abſit, ab Auguſtana confeſſione, cujus*

guſtum aliquem ſub Carolo Cardinali patruo quondam habuerit, non abhorrere. Ita cum inter eos communicaret, utrumque ſentire animadverteſſe. It would be Negligence not to obſerve likewiſe, that as in his Hiſtory he exhibits the State of Learning in the Characters of learned Men; ſo in theſe Memoirs there are many Particulars relating to Literature, that are not in his great Work; ſuch as his Account of the *Florentine* Pandects, of his *Greek* MS of *Zoſimus*, of his aſſiſting in the collecting and publiſhing of *Mich. Hoſpitalii Poemata*, &c; and his perſonal Interviews in his Travels with many Men eminent for Learning, which make very entertaining Additions to the Characters he gives in his Hiſtory of ſuch of them as died within the Time he wrote of. It appears alſo by theſe Memoirs, that for fifteen Years before he began to compile his Hiſtory, he omitted no Opportunity of collecting Materials for it, not only from original Letters of Ambaſſadours, other authentick Pieces, and particularly thoſe kept in the Offices of the Secretaries of State to which he had free Acceſs, and printed Relations on all Sides, but from the Mouths of eminent and active Men, beſt able to inform him rightly in Occurrences wherein either they themſelves had been concerned, or of which they had peculiar Means by their Situation or Employments to know the true State and Circumſtances. But the principal View in writing theſe Memoirs, was to confute the Cenſures paſs'd, or rather the Calumnies thrown, upon his Hiſtory, and eſpecially by the *Notationes in Hiſt. Thuani*, mentioned above to have been publiſhed in 1614 under the fictitious Name of *Jo. Bap. Gallus*; which being written by *John Machault* a Jeſuit, in the moſt virulent and abuſive Manner, comprehended all that Malignity and Defamation which the Leaguers thought themſelves intitled to beſtow upon all Catholicks who, adhering to the Conſtitution of *France*, were not ſuch outragious Zealots and ſo blindly devoted as themſelves to the Court of *Rome*. This is declared to be the main View towards the End of the 5th Book of his Life, where Notice is expreſly taken of that Libel of *Machault*'s, and *Thuanus* juſtified in very free and manly Terms.

The Reaſons for taking this Method to defend his Hiſtory, by exhibiting and appealing to his Actions and Behaviour in Life, are thus ſet forth in the Introduction prefixed to theſe Memoirs in the King's MS. *Quoniam calumniarum putidarum conſarcinatores, non contentos in annaleis dicere, etiam in Vitam Auctoris ſtilum virulentum ſtringere non puduit, ——— Mihi, qui Viri ad publicam utilitatem*

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nati innocentiam perſpectam habeam, ejuſque dignitatem integram conſervari publicæ itidem rei ſummopere interesſe exiſtimem, memoria repetenti quæ ab illo de ſe ac rebus ſuis veraci ac minimè jactabundo animo plerumque diſſerente accepi, ea ſcriptis mandari operæ pretium viſum eſt; ut de iis ad refellendas calumnias non ſolum apud præſentis ſeculi homines conſtet, ſed etiam qui poſt nos futuri ſint, hinc habeant unde privatos viri ejus mores et totam vitæ domeſticæ rationem diſcant, cujus ingenium & candorem ex ipſius ſcriptis ſunt olim ſemper cognituri.

This Method of Defence, produced, you ſee, the Expedient of drawing up theſe Memoirs in the Character of a third Perſon. And in the *printed Life*, Intimations of its being written by a Friend of *Thuanus* are dropt here and there, eſpecially towards the End of the 5th Book; as, where it is ſaid that *Thuanus* in his daily Prayers beſought the Almighty to keep his Mind unbyaſs'd and intent on Truth only in writing his Hiſtory, theſe Words are put *ſicuti ex ipſo audivi*; and, when Notice is taken of the Odium and Calumny which the Freedom of his Writings had drawn upon him, and that it was difficult to aſſign any juſt Grounds for them, it is ſaid, *cum ea de re Authorem ipſum conſulerem, reſpondit ille, &c.*

But, let others judge, whether the Simplicity and Dignity of Sentiments that abound in theſe Memoirs, which are animated with the ſame Spirit of Liberty that breathes throughout his Hiſtory, do not diſcover them manifeſtly to be of *Thuanus*'s own compoſing; and if ſo, ſuch Paſſages as I have mentioned ought to be aſcribed to a native and becoming Modeſty, which conſtrained our Author to aſſume a third Perſonage; Becauſe in defending his Hiſtory and good Name, he was obliged to ſpeak honourably, tho' truly, of himſelf; which Self-Commendation, how inevitable ſoever, a Man of his good Breeding and good Taſte could not utter avowedly with his own Mouth, even tho' it was in Vindication of his perſonal Character, which *Machault* had groſly vilified.

Theſe Memoirs, which contain but Part of the Life of *Thuanus*, who was ſo well deſcended and related, and ſuitably accompliſhed with Learning and Knowledge; who travelled over ſeveral Parts of *Europe*, moſtly in the Company of publick Miniſters or others illuſtrious for their Abilities; who was in all reſpects ſo qualified to converſe with, and did converſe with Men of all Conditions, either upon Points of Literature, Arts and Sciences, or upon publick Buſineſs, as being himſelf often employed by his Prince in the moſt arduous Affairs; theſe Memoirs, I ſay, are ſo highly inſtructive and entertaining, that

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every body wiſhes they had not broke off as they do in 1601, but had been continued to 1617, in which Year he died. But, as it is probable he took the Diſguiſe of a third Perſon in writing theſe Memoirs, to reconcile himſelf to the undergoing a Task ſo painful to a modeſt Man; ſo I leave it to be conſidered, whether his breaking off abruptly at the Concluſion of the 6th Book, which was written in 1615, upon the mention of his firſt Wife's Death in 1601, (which could not affect him longer than to 1603, when he married a ſecond Wife, with whom he lived ſo happily that Grief for her Deceaſe in 1616 haſtened his End,) was not a Pretext well choſen for ridding his Hands decently of this Subject of his own Life; which I cannot help thinking he never *intended* to carry *further*. My Reaſon is, that it is apparent theſe Memoirs were not written ſpontaneouſly, did not proceed from the common Motives of Vanity or Self-Love, but were extorted from him by his Enemies, to evince, that a Man who had paſſed his Life in ſo irreproachable, ſo laudable a manner, as the Memoirs ſhew he had done, to 1601, which was the 48th Year of his Age, when he had been ſix Years in the venerable Station of a Judge, could not be that Wretch they would repreſent him. I conclude therefore, that having ſatisfied himſelf with this natural Defence of his Reputation and Writings, he had done all he propoſed, and had made himſelf as much known to the World as he was concerned, and more than he was inclined, to do, by his own Pen, tho' in the Character of a third Perſon. Notwithſtanding this Opinion of mine, I muſt acquaint you, Sir, that as one ſhould never be withheld by Conjectures and Speculations from inquiring thoroughly into Facts, ſo no Pains has been ſpared in the making proper Search in *France*, to diſcover whether the Author himſelf, or his Friends *Puteanus* or *Rigaltius* (who both ſurvived him above 30 Years) left behind them any Continuation of theſe Memoirs of his Life, or any kind of rough Draughts or Minutes that might help towards continuing them. But not a Leaf of Paper upon that Subject could any where be found. We have however two Pieces written by *Thuanus*, the one is his Letter addreſſed to the Preſident *Jeannin*, on an Occaſion mentioned in my former to you, which contains ſome Particulars relating to his Perſon and Fortunes; the other is an Account of the Conference which he and other Perſons of Diſtinction, deputed by the Queen Regent, had at *Loudun* in 1616, with the Prince of *Condé* and other Chiefs of the Proteſtants: Both which are in *Latin*, and the latter of them never yet printed. They ſhall be inſerted in our 7th Volume.

It may not be improper to take ſome Notice here, that when *Puteanus* or *Rigaltius* conveyed privately the Memoirs of our Author's *Life* to *Geneva*, to be printed with his Hiſtory intire in 1620, they ſtruck out of the Copy the whole Introduction (Part of which I have quoted above) and ſeveral Paſſages in other Parts of thoſe Memoirs that are in the King's MS. which imported in too expreſs Terms, that they were written by a Perſon intimate with *Thuanus*: But they overlook'd a very remarkable Paſſage of that Sort at the End of the 5th Book; they therefore took Care to have it omitted in the next *Geneva* Edition, as I obſerved in my firſt Letter to you, Sir; and for the Reaſons doubtleſs I there aſſigned, namely, That living at a Time when the Enemies of *Thuanus* and his Writings had all Power at the Court of *France*, they found it neceſſary to ſtrike out ſuch Paſſages as they apprehended would breed a ſtrong Suſpicion that one of them was the Writer of that Life: But as for the leſſer Hints, ſuch as *ſicuti ex ipſo Authore audivi*, and the like, they let them ſtand, becauſe they judged ſuch light Touches would paſs unheeded, or if obſerved, could not be interpreted to affect either of them ſo directly as thoſe other ſtrong Paſſages.

One Thing in the 6th Book of his *Life*, makes it very valuable, which is the ample and particular Account given in it of the Conference held by *Hen.* 4. with his Miniſters and chief Councellours, touching the receiving and authorizing in *France* the Council of *Trent*. This is an inſtructive Supplement to the 123d Book of his Hiſtory, where he has but three Lines upon that important Subject, viz. no more than this, *Actum et tunc* (*an.* 1599) *de Concilii Tridentini promulgatione, ſed res delata, et quanquam Cancellarius et Villaregius maxime urgerent, in quietiora tempora reſervata.*

It would be tranſcribing too much from theſe Memoirs, to trace and copy the Lineaments our Author has left in them of his natural Temper and Diſpoſition of Mind. They are ſeen in all his Actions, and in all his Sentiments. We find him conſtantly a Lover of the Rights and Liberties of his native Country, in Church and State; and of good Order and Steadineſs, which produce Dignity, in the Adminiſtration of the Government; and, tho' himſelf a Catholick, a ſtrenuous Aſſerter of Liberty of Conſcience: Active and faithful in the publick Service in trying Times (for in ſuch it was his Lot to live) at the Hazard of his Perſon, and to the Prejudice of his Fortunes; during which Times he acquired a great Share of the Favour and Confidence of two ſucceſſive Kings, by ſuggeſting honeſt and uſeful Counſels to them in Caſes of the higheſt Importance:

portance: Always a Contemner of the common Practices and Pursuits in Courts: Peculiarly amiable for his filial Piety: Delighting in worthy Men, and happy in his Friendships.

At the Close of his 120th Book with the Birth of the Dauphin in 1601, the true Patriot is seen in those good Wishes for his Country, which he addresses to that Prince, to be considered by him when he should succeed to the Throne, *ante omnia ad gloriæ Dei, per quem & propter quem Reges regnant, amplificationem, cuncta consilia tua, vires ac conatus dirige: justitiam serva: cum vicinis pacem, cum tuis benevolentiam, cole: et in civili administratione sic te gere, ut virtuti decus, bene meritis præmia, subditis ubique fœdis nundinationibus & avaritiæ pabulo, constans; & æquabile inter omnes jus tua constituatur, ut neque sacer ordo cultum ac reverentiam erga se à cæteris desideret, neque nobilitas dignitates & honores sibi deesse, neque plebs sui rationem non haberi merito queri possit.*

In a Word, whoever reads his Life, *after* having read his History (in which he himself is occasionally mentioned as concerned in the Transactions of those Times) will find it as amiable in its kind as any in *Plutarch*; whom, by the Way, our Author had well studied, as appears from M. *Dacier*'s Preface to his Translation. *J'ay eu entre les mains un* Plutarque Grec *noté en plusieurs endroits de la main de* Turnebe. *Il ne m'a esté d'aucune utilité, car toutes ses notes ne sont que les mots les plus remarquables du texte que ce sçavant homme prenoit la peine d'escrire à la marge pour les avoir plus presents. Mais je ne sçaurois trop reconnoistre le secours que j'ay tiré d'un autre Plutarque, dont toutes les Vies sont notées de la main du celebre M. de* Thou, *de ce grand Historien, qui jusqu'à aujourd'huy soustient pour cet art l'honneur de la France contre l'Italie & la Grece, et dans les escrits duquel on remarque autant de profondeur et de force, que de sincerité et de verité. Il avoit leu ces vies avec tant de soin et d'exactitude, et avoit marqué avec tant de choix ce qui pouvoit esclaircir, ou illustrer les passages les plus remarquables et les plus importans, ou indiquer leur source, qu'il a extrêmement abregé mon travail, en m'espargnant de longues recherches, et en me donnant souvent des lumieres que je n'aurois pas eues sans luy.*

I cannot omit taking particular Notice of one Thing, which shews *Thuanus*'s Ingenuity towards the Publick and towards his Friends; and that is, his Acknowledgment of the Assistance he had in the compiling of his History. In his 117th Book he gives an admirable Character of *Petrus Pithœus*,

Pithœus, who died in the Year 1596: Among other Things he ſays this of him, *Nemo privata & domeſtica negotia exactius tenuit, quam ipſe Gallicam externamq; hiſtoriam, origines populorum, deſcriptiones temporum, ſucceſſiones familiarum, bella, fœdera, conventiones vel exterorum inter ſe vel nobiſcum, geſta, leges, mores, conſuetudines provinciarum ſingularumve urbium.* And he concludes with theſe Words, *Ita ut incomparabilis amici morte, quicum partiri curas, & non ſolum de Studiis, ſed etiam de Repub. conſilia communicare conſueveram*, cœptæ hiſtoriæ penſum protinus è manibus excuſſerim, abjeciſſemque prorſus, *niſi tanti viri & de me ac patria tam bene meriti memoriæ hoc debere exiſtimaſſem, ut quod* illo auctore inchoaveram *ad publicam utilitatem, cui noſtram in ea parte induſtriam prodeße olim judicabat, quamvis tanto* adjutore *deſtitutus, aliis undecunque quæ ab illo ſolo ab initio ſperaveram conquiſitis ſubſidiis, ad exitum tandem perducerem.* In the 6th Book of his Life, he cannot forbear mentioning him again to the ſame Purpoſe, adding this Particular, *Res Henrico II. geſtæ eo ſuperſtite ſcriptæ, et ab eo in parte recognitæ et* emendatæ: *Et cum vivere deſiit, earum exemplum penes ſe habebat.* And to ſhew the Fulneſs of his Concern for his Loſs, he inſerts there a Letter to *Iſ. Caſaubon*, in which he ſays, *Me certe ipſius amicitia, quandiu ea frui licuit, felicem, nunc poſt ejus mortem unico ſtudiorum meorum et conſiliorum duce et adjutore orbatum tantus adflixit dolor, ut parum abfuerit, quin ſtatim ſtudiis omnibus & Reipub. adeo ipſi, cui me in aliqua parte inſeruire voluit Deus, ſummum vale dixerim, niſi me ejus ipſius, ex cujus amiſſione tantum dolorem ſentio, præclaræ voces, quæ adhuc animo meo inhærebant, revocaſſent. Nam in mentem veniebat, illum cum me de Rep. deſperantem ac plane animo dejectum videret, hac ratione ſæpe erigere ſolitum, cum diceret, quamvis haut paulo melius ipſe de Regni ſtatu ominaretur, boni civis ac ſtrenui militis eſſe ſtationem à ſummo imperatore mandatam vel deploratis rebus minime deſerere.* Towards the End of his 136th Book a great Character is given of *Soffrey de Calignon* Chancellor of *Navarre*, who died in 1606, (*cum quo* (ſays *Thuanus*) *in Edicto Namnetenſi condendo communem operam per triennium integrum navavi:*) To that Character ſome Paſſages will be added in our Edition, taken from the King's *MS.* and particularly this, *Cum triſtiſſimum de ejus morte nuncium accepi, ex eo graviſſimum dolorem concepi, quippe ſingulari amico et ſapientiſſimo viro orbatus, qui me* domi *in* Hiſtorico noſtro opere, *foris in conſiliis pro Rep. capiendis, plerunque titubantem ſuſtinebat, et filo prudenti ac ſua quaſi manu deduc-*

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tum errare non sinebat. By his last Will he commits to the Care and Judgment of *Puteanus* and *Rigaltius* the *parata Editio* of his History; a Trust he judged proper to repose in Men who were publickly known to be his constant, and in a manner his Houshold Companions, a great many Years; and whom he knew the learned World would agree were well qualified to *counsel* and *assist* him; and these he enjoyns, in the publishing of the said perfect Copy of his History, to take the further Advice of the Brothers *Sammarthani, qui* (says he) *me in toto opere multum opera sua et diligentia adjuverunt.* These Proceedings are Marks not only of an ingenuous and honest, but of a wise Man; and had their natural Effects: For, after his Death, *Puteanus* and *Rigaltius* omitted no Occasion of paying all friendly Offices to his Memory, his Writings, and his Family. Their first Care was, to secure the Continuation of his History, by conveying the *parata Editio* immediately to *Geneva*, with all the Secrecy at that Time necessary. Their next was, to render the whole as perfect as they could by their Emendations. Add to this, *Rigaltius*'s writing a Continuation of the History to the Time his deceased Friend designed to have carried it; the publishing by the two Brothers *Peter* and *James Dupuy*, Interpretations of the proper Names of Persons and Places in the History, (for besides what *Peter Dupuy* noted in the Margins of his Sett of *Thuanus*, the *Index Thuani* was their joint Labour:) Add also *Peter Dupuy*'s warm *Apologie pour l'Histoire de M. de Thou*, written in 1620; and his elaborate and pathetick Defence of *de Thou*'s unfortunate Son *Francis*; which two last will be found in our 7th Volume. The *Notationes J. B. Galli* shall likewise be printed intire in that Volume; and the various Readings of the King's and other MSS. shall be placed at the Bottom of the Pages of the *Vita Thuani*, with Interpretations of the proper Names in it. In a Word, that Volume will be the Repository of Letters and other detached Pieces, more than can be enumerated here, on different Subjects: Which will be so ranged, with respect to Time, and to each Subject they treat of, that they will cast Light upon each other, and upon the History. I will make particular Mention of a few of them only which were transmitted to me while I was drawing up this my third Letter to you, *viz.* A very valuable and curious Letter in *French* from *Thuanus* to a Friend in 1592, on the League, and on the Means for a general Pacification in the Kingdom. Another Letter of *Thuanus* in *French* to the Duke *de Bouillon* in 1593, on the Conversion of K. *Henry* IV. Letters from *Camden* to

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Pet. Puteanus, three of them after the Death of *Thuanus*. And two Letters from *Lingelsheimius* to *Pet. Puteanus*.

Next to our Author's Ingenuity towards his Friends, let us place his Diſcretion and Faithfulneſs towards thoſe from whom he had received Informations that were of a delicate Nature, and ought not to be unſeaſonably divulged. One Inſtance of which, was his forbearing to publiſh in any Edition of his Hiſtory, during his Life, the Account of the Great Duke *Coſmo*'s putting to Death with his own Hand his Son *Garſias* for killing his other Son *John*. In Lib. 1. *Vitæ ſuæ, ſub ann.* 1573, he names his Voucher for that extraordinary Occurrence, *viz.* the famous *George Vaſari*, the Architect and Painter and Writer of the Lives of Painters; and having cloſed it in the printed Life with theſe Words, *Et Coſmum id quamvis juſtè et generoſè factum enixè tegi voluiſſe confirmavit, ne omnis initio fundati imperii materiam inde obtrectandi arriperent*, the MS. in the King's Library goes on thus, *Itaque auctor monitorum Vaſarii memor, idem quod ille veritus, partem eam in hiſtoriis ſuis ſuppreſſit.* Therefore that Story was not publiſhed till the Year 1620, in the 32d Book of the *Geneva* Edition. Another Inſtance of it, is, the remarkable Converſation at *Rome* (he himſelf being preſent) between Cardinal *Santa Croce* and the famous *Paul de Foix*, related in *Lib.* 1. *Vitæ ſuæ*, where that Relation ends thus, *His dictis Santacrucius Foxium rogavit monitorum memor eſſet, cæterum monitoris obliviſceretur.* The MS. in the King's Library adds, *Quod idem et* Jacobo [Thuano] *dictum, qui tamen rem minimè oblivioni mandavit, ſed in adverſaria retulit; et quanquam in annalibus omiſit, tamen poſt tot annorum intercapedinem, cum nullum inde periculum Santacrucio, qui jam pridem obiit, creari poteſt, non moleſtè ferret, ſi ea nunc monimentis publicis conſignantur.*

As to the various Readings collected from the ſeveral Editions, and the Interpretations of the proper Names, Mr. *Carte* has been very laborious and exact in ſettling them in the Copy he prepared for the Preſs: In doing which he read over the Text carefully, and has corrected a very great Number of Faults left in the *Geneva* Editions. He has alſo by Notes at the Bottom of the Page, explained many Paſſages, and rectified others. As to the Interpretations, he has authentickly ſupplied a vaſt Number that were omitted by *Du Puy*, by conſulting the Authors themſelves from whom *Thuanus* took his Relations, and other Books. In this Particular he will be found to have deſerved extremely well of the Publick, becauſe nothing has hitherto ſo much diſguſted all

Readers of *Thuanus*, as the Stops and Difficulties they were put to in every Page by his latinizing the proper Names. The Truth is, the beſt Service that could be done to *Thuanus*, was to render him eaſy to be read currently by Interpretations of thoſe Names; which being now done, he will certainly be more generally read for the future than any other modern Hiſtorian; becauſe, in ſhort, there is more to be learnt from him, upon all publick Points that can engage or deſerve one's Attention, than from any other.

And now allow me the Pleaſure, Sir, to make this Third Letter to you an Opportunity of acknowledging with all Reſpect and Thankfulneſs, the Favour and Aſſiſtance of thoſe Perſons, who have chiefly promoted this Work, or contributed, by their Advice or by furniſhing any Papers, to the Improvement of our Edition. My firſt Compliments are due to your ſelf, who adviſed me to undertake it; the next to your Brother, Counſellour *Mead*, who confirmed me in a Reſolution to go through with it; and both of you have not only directed me how to proceed in the Edition, and furniſhed me with Books out of your Libraries proper to be conſulted, but procured me a conſiderable Number of Subſcriptions among your Friends. My Lord *Townſhend*, my Lord *Carteret*, and my Lord Biſhop of *London*, condeſcended to promote my Subſcriptions in the Houſe of Peers, as did Sir *Robert Walpole* ſignally in the Houſe of Commons. Nor am I obliged to my Lord *Carteret* for a great Number of Subſcriptions here only, but for a very conſiderable Addition to that Number, which his Lordſhip was pleaſed to procure for me in *Ireland*. I muſt alſo gratefully acknowledge, that my Lord *Townſhend* attending the King to his *German* Dominions laſt Summer, was pleaſed to take Occaſion to recommend my Undertaking to his Majeſty's Miniſters abroad, *viz.* to my Lord *Cheſterfield* at the *Hague*, my Lord *Waldegrave* at the Court of *Vienna*, Brigadier *Dubourgay* at that of *Berlin*, Mr. *Titley* at that of *Copenhagen*, and Sir *Cyrill Wich* at *Hamburg*, to all whom I am obliged for Subſcriptions; and particularly to my Lord *Waldegrave* for engaging the Chevalier *Garelli*, the Emperor's Librarian, to furniſh me out of his own as well as the Imperial Library with what he judged might be ſerviceable to our Edition of *Thuanus*. I own my Obligations likewiſe to the learned Monſ. *le Duchat* at *Berlin*, who approving what I had publiſhed about my Undertaking, voluntarily tranſcribed and ſent to me his Notes upon ſeveral Paſſages of *Thuanus*. It is with Pleaſure and Gratitude that I always bear in mind the kind Uſage I had from his Excellency Mr. *Horatio Walpole*, when I was at *Paris* two Years ago; and the Pains he was pleaſed to take afterwards, to procure for me a Collection

lection of very valuable Letters in *MS.* of *Thuanus*, *Camden*, and *Casaubon*, which without his Sollicitation I must have despaired of. I have Reason to own my self infinitely obliged to his Excellency Mr. *Poynitz*, for good Offices done me in the Affair of *Thuanus*. Nor can I ever be unmindful of the Readiness of Mr. *Robinson*, Secretary of the Embassy at *Paris*, to give me all the Assistance that lay in his Power. My Subscriptions from the Colleges at *Oxford* were countenanced and recommended by Dr. *George Clarke*, and those from the Colleges at *Cambridge* by Dr. *Bentley*; and I am much obliged to Mr. *Cockman* Master of *University College* in *Oxford*, and Mr. *Adams* Fellow of *Sidney College* in *Cambridge*, for procuring Subscriptions, as well from the several Colleges of each University, as from some particular Gentlemen.

I have owned my great Obligations to my Lord *Carteret* for Subscriptions. But I have the farther Pleasure to acknowledge, that his Lordship has from Time to Time favoured me with his Directions and Informations concerning *Thuanus*, one of his Favourite Authors, of whom he is a perfect Master. Among other Things, his Lordship had the Goodness to put into my Hands, above a Year ago, the following Character of him.

'THUANUS is an Historian of the first Rank with respect to 'the Extensiveness and Dignity of his Subject, which he has 'related in the most proper and ornamental Stile. No Writer ever did more Honour to his Country. He always vindicated the just Rights of *France*, and has furnished his Countrymen with solid Arguments to maintain them. The Rights of the House of *Bourbon* are by him set in the clearest Light. Yet such were the Times in which he lived, that the Courtiers at *Paris* were not asham'd to sacrifice him to the Resentments of the Court of *Rome*, with this Aggravation, that his own Hero *Henry* the Fourth was unsteady in his Defence, and suffer'd this most learned, candid, and free-spirited *Frenchman*, his most faithful Subject, and useful Friend, to be insulted by Priests and Bigots, who would, if they could, have suppressed this immortal Work; and this is an Instance, in which *Henry* the Fourth did not shew his usual Grandeur of Mind, but was wanting to himself in not supporting a Man he loved and esteemed and was obliged to, against the Iniquity of Persons he despis'd. Whoever reads this History with Attention will see, that *Thuanus* speaks Truth of himself, when he says, That he rather declined Honours at Court than sought them, and that he placed his whole Dignity and Security in a good Conscience. Tho' the Work is long collectively consider'd, yet it is not long in its

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' reſpective Parts. He leads the Reader through the whole
' World, is very entertaining in whatever he writes, and for
' the moſt Part is very inſtructive. It is not to be expected
' that he could be ſo exact in what he writes of Foreign Coun-
' tries, as he is in what relates to his own. The principal
' Value of his Work conſiſts in what he delivers, concerning
' the Courts of *Rome*, *France*, and *Spain*; and, in treating the
' Tranſactions of thoſe Courts, he is to be look'd upon as an
' original Hiſtorian. There are many curious Matters relating
' to *Germany*, but as they are taken from other Writers, he
' has not the Merit of being the Original in that Reſpect; but
' yet his Copy, if we may ſo call it, exceeds infinitely all the
' Originals in Beauty and Ornament of Writing. There are
' many curious Things relating to ſeveral Courts in *Italy*,
' ſome of which are to be found no where elſe. As to the *Low*
' *Countries*, he gives the beſt and fulleſt Account, from the Be-
' ginning of the Troubles to the Truce ſet on foot in 1607, of any
' Author extant. The great Revolution in *Portugal* after the
' Death of Don *Sebaſtian*, is admirably told *Ann.* 1579. As
' to the *Turkiſh* Matters, and the Affairs of the *Xeriffes* in
' *Africa*, he exceeds all who have written upon them, and he
' ſeems to take a particular Delight in them, from the Novel-
' ty and ſurpriſing Incidents that occur in them. He makes
' Excurſions into *America*, as alſo into the remote Parts of the
' Eaſt. He gives a very good Account of *Poland*, *Hungary*,
' *Tranſilvania*, and *Walachia*, and the Affairs of the Houſe
' of *Auſtria* with thoſe Countries. He gives us enough of
' *Muſcovy*, *Sweden*, and *Denmark*, *Pruſſia*, and *Livonia*;
' and in all thoſe Particulars is highly entertaining. As to *Eng-*
' *land*, it muſt be confeſs'd he is not always exact; but ſome
' Miſtakes, concerning the legal Part of our Conſtitution, and
' juridical Matters, are very excuſable in a Foreigner. He
' does Juſtice to the Nation in great Points, and Queen *Eli-*
' *zabeth*'s Reign appears no where in greater nor truer Luſtre
' than in his Hiſtory. As to *Scotland*, he follows *Buchanan*
' for the moſt Part, as far as that Author goes, and adds Cre-
' dit to him. Thoſe who find Fault with ſo great a Perfor-
' mance upon little Inaccuracies relating to Foreign Countries,
' ſhew but ſmall Experience in publick Affairs, by imagining
' that he could have exact Accounts of all the Foreign Coun-
' tries in Europe, as to their Domeſtick State, and what rela-
' ted wholly to themſelves. There were few that could give
' him perfect Accounts of their own Countries, and the moſt
' careful and judicious may too often be miſtaken. Whatever
' Tranſaction any Court had with *France* is accurately related,

' and

and the Variety of his Subjects affords great Entertainment and Relief in Reading; but the chief Value and Utility of his Hiſtory conſiſts in his Relations concerning the three Courts of *Rome*, *France*, and *Spain*, which at that Time gave the Spring to the Affairs of the whole World.

'In this great Work ſeveral Kinds of Hiſtory are contained, diſtinct from the principal Objects; as in particular the Progreſs of Literature, which is interwoven with wonderful Art and Labour in the Account of about 400 Perſons, who within that Time were conſiderable in the ſeveral Parts of the World for their learned Works; and in this his Humanity is apparent, in cenſuring none too ſeverely; But as he touches Faults gently, ſo he gives due Praiſe, where it is deſerved, without Diſtinction upon the Account either of Religion or Country, and for this the Court of *Rome* was highly incenſed againſt him: His Work was cenſured, as if written by an Heretick: However the Church of *Rome* had the Credit to have *Thuanus* live and die in her Communion. The *Romiſh* Emiſſaries have pretended that the poſthumous Work, or Continuation of the Hiſtory from the 80th Book, was to be ſuſpected; but as that proves itſelf to be genuine by its Stile and inimitable Freedom of Spirit, intirely agreeable to what he publiſhed in his Life-time and ſet his Name to; ſo Mr. *Buckley* has given us convincing Proofs, that *Lingelſheim's* was the *parata Editio*.

'The Symmetry and Contexture of the whole Work cannot be ſufficiently admired; and it is ſo rich in Materials, that if it was broken into Parts, and thoſe ranged under their reſpective Heads, it would make ſeveral excellent Hiſtories; all which would be ſubſtantial and conciſe, and ſought after with Eagerneſs by the Generality of Readers: Whereas taking them altogether, *Five Volumes in Folio, in Latin*, for about 60 Years only, deter many from venturing upon them; but the new Edition will diminiſh that Apprehenſion, by making proper Diviſions, by which it will appear, that almoſt every where, in half an Hour's Reading, there is to be found a proper Pauſe.

'It is now about 100 Years ſince any Edition of this Hiſtory has been publiſhed: And as few of them are beautiful, and none of them can ſtand ſingly, we are much obliged to Mr. *Buckley* for undertaking ſo uſeful and expenſive a Work; which will be ſome Honour to *England*, when it comes out, as it will do Juſtice to one of the beſt Hiſtorians and trueſt Advocates for Liberty, that ever wrote.

I ſubjoyn the Liſt of my Subſcribers, and remain ever with the utmoſt Reſpect and Truth,

SIR,

Your moſt obliged humble and obedient Servant,

S. Buckley.

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